

ENTRE NOUS CLUB A BLAZE OF GLORY

The Popular Woman's Club Give Literary and Social Entertainment.

The beautiful home of Marshal and Mrs. W. H. Darrough, at the corner of Smith street and Canadian avenue, was Thursday night the scene of a brilliant gathering, the occasion being the annual open session of the Entre Nous club, whose membership numbers twenty-five ladies.

As each was entitled to a "husband" and two guests, a full five score occupied the spacious library and reception hall when the president, Mrs. N. P. Johnson, silenced the "small talk."

As the past winter had been devoted by the Entre Nous club to the study of Japanese-Russian subjects, the house had been artistically and tastefully decorated with the flags of those nations, mingling with the prettier colors of our own emblem. Chrysanthemum, the national flower of Japan, furnished the yellow with the brown that compose the colors of the club, while other flowers of the season were lavishly used to add their beauty to the scene, all forming a pleasing setting to the living center of beautiful gowns and handsome women.

At 9:25 the guests were enlivened in an easy manner by the president, who spoke briefly, as follows, suggesting the object of the club:

"Our visitors, in behalf of the Entre Nous Club, I bring greeting: Lord Bacon has said, 'Knowledge is Power.' How true: a power either for evil or for good. In order that the right use of knowledge may prevail, we must begin to educate in the right direction, at the right time. Education is the seed sown; cultivation is the applied education. The child is our future. How may we better prepare him for life than by keeping at his side and in touch with him along all lines of improvement; and who can give to him his first enlightenment better than an intelligent mother? Of a truth, 'The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.'"

Today our nation excels because its women excel. The home, the church, the school, the women's clubs, are all centers of mental development which have brought our individual and family life to their admirable superiority.

The women are the makers of our history, and the unconscious rulers of our men. They are a fervent and devoted part of this great republic. They are the founders of the home, "that golden setting in which the brightest jewel is mother." It is the women of the nation who are the moulders of public opinion, and the wider horizon created by the club, and by the intent and cultivated woman, is one of the best indications of the progress of the nation; and one of the most certain safeguards for the freedom and perpetuity of the institutions that are cherished in this republic. For this our club stands.

Again we bid you welcome. The program for the evening was begun by C. H. Caldwell with a violin solo, accompanied on the piano by Miss Graper, after which Mrs. H. C. Luey read the following interesting paper on ART.

Ruskin says, "Beauty is the bread of the soul."

Art is the result of the perception and love of the beautiful. We have (upon the canvas) the beauty of dawn and twilight, the glory of the morning and evening skies, the power of the wave and the tossing sea; but never since the world began has there arisen such a vision of beauty as that which has made historic ground of dear old Forest Park. Splendid achievements lie hid in the shadows of the future, but however much of beauty and art they may present, they can never surpass that which has made St. Louis immortal by the hand of Art.

Vain is the hand of art that tries to transfer to canvas the shifting glories of the shimmering opal. Presumptuous the hand that tries to depict iridescent hues reflected on the dancing bubble of the cascades.

The arts are connected in a singularly intimate manner by general consent. Poetry occupies the place of honor. To be incapable of a feeling for poetry is to be without love of human nature. The beauty of the sound of verse is the smallest part of its charm. It embodies in a way no other art can do the thoughts and feelings of the human spirit. "This said, When Innocence retreated tearfully from our earth she met Poetry on the threshold. They looked at each other, but each went her way; the one to heaven, the other to the dwellings of men."

As a charm through which the beautiful finds expression, music is second only to poetry, and, in expression of emotion, is superior to other arts.

Emerson says: "Courtesy, politeness and beautiful behavior are the finest of fine arts." How true, then, the most perfect courtesy comes from unselfishness, a ready sympathy and a desire to put all others at ease. What a gift from God! and one too little prized.

The art of living is truly one of the fine arts. Could we travel and study the grand works as done by the master hands, such as Rembrandt, Rubens and Raphael and had not learned the art of life we would still be poor.

The church has the credit of being the mother of modern art. She offered men undying fame as a reward for noble effort. Thus we find the old hero, Michael Angelo, at the age of twenty devoting his time and talents to the cause of Christ. To the church work he gave his passionate soul and began the work which today excites the admiration of every artistic soul who views the ceiling of the Cistine chapel, containing over three hundred figures, all larger than life. The unnatural position, mostly on his back for four years, so strained the muscles of neck, eyes and hands that they almost refused to act. "My life is on the ceiling of the Cistine chapel," he said. But fifty years of life and grand work were yet before him.

The nineteenth century gave recognition to woman as a social force, upon an intellectual basis. Woman simply claimed the right to be and do. Tennyson says: "Let woman live and be at liberty to do and to be all that disturbs not distinctive womanhood."

In the club movement, whatever may be the future development, the object was self-culture. There are Art and Study clubs, and many for the betterment of social conditions. A high tribute to woman and her work was the placing of a statue of Francis Willard in the National Hall of Fame, of marble as pure as was her life. Out of about forty statues in the Hall of Fame, this is the first to be executed of a woman. Words are not delectate enough to express the constant and all-pervading influence of a noble woman.

The recent study of our club has been Russia and Japan. The soul of Russia is shown in her native literature. When have men written with such tragic intensity; where music suggested such depths of sadness and human passion? Among the great novelists there is a convincing sincerity, an appealing, sympathetic personal quality. Their books lay before us the souls of their writers. This sympathetic contemplation of the poor and humble we find in Russian art as in her literature. During the brilliant reign of Catherine II the hermitage at St. Petersburg was founded. This contains Russia's greatest art. The chief work of the best Russian artists are historical, religious, scenes of war and execution, but little indication of aesthetic vision of the beauty of their own land, compares the Russian landscape with those of the French artist, Millet, with their vivid sunsets, luminous skies and refined color. We see the Russian artist has not yet perceived the delicate beauty of the world in which he himself lives.

It has been said of Japan, with much truth, that no other country in the world owes so much to its art. So intimately are aesthetic ideals bound up with the course of Japanese life and modes of thought that art is the expression of the spirit of her civilization. In Japan, as in all other lands, artistic aspiration is given to but few among the many. Artists having creative genius tower high above their fellows. Japanese critics have always considered painting to be a form of poetry. The painter tries to represent the soul of things, rather than their visible forms. Masterly writings are esteemed equal with painting. There are no greater arts with them than their embroideries. It is an art which follows closely that of painting. Japan is in truth a shining example of the essential unity of all the arts. But modern Japan is becoming tired of being praised for aesthetic excellence; is more anxious to be praised for its social, commercial and political progress. But to the cultivated Japanese this tendency is distasteful. A visitor in Japan writes them: "Where in the world does there exist such a conspiracy to be agreeable; such sincere delight in beautiful, artistic things; such widespread refinement of taste and habits; such courtesy to strangers; such willingness to please and be pleased."

They believe that men by perpetual toil and worry render themselves unfit to enjoy the pleasures which nature places within their reach. Thus we

may see that in the American life of high pressure there is too much work and too little time for cultivating the artist's and aesthetic side of life; the only which which will not decay is knowledge; the only jewel which you can carry beyond the grave is wisdom. To possess this wealth, and to secure this jewel, let us hope, may be the happy lot of all.

At the close of the program, during which each of the members received enthusiastic applause, ice cream and cake were served in the dining room, after which the guests gathered at the punch bowl, presided over by Vera, Miriam and Lucile, the dainty white clad daughters of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Darrough, Mr. and Mrs. L. K. McGuffin and Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Milford.

It was after midnight before the strains of Annis' orchestra ceased and the last of the guests departed, bearing pleasant memories of an evening well spent in pleasure not unmixed with good.

For lack of space other good papers read, were crowded out of today's issue but will appear later.

NOTES.

It was a literary and musical treat. The Entre Nous has developed some latent talent of an exceedingly high order.

There was taste and ability in the planning and execution.

The encores were meant for encores and wouldn't be "turned down."

There are fifty gentlemen who would like to become members, should the bars ever be let down.

The "Between Ourselves Literary club" stands for intelligence, culture, taste and literary merit.

Mr. Caldwell, with the violin, was at his best.

The vocal solo by Mrs. James. "Sweet Genevieve," bespoke a sweet voice that lacked not cultivation.

The papers by Mesdames Luey and Scott were beautiful in style and splendid in thought.

It is too bad for the membership to be only twenty-five.

"Miranda's Economy," by Mrs. Emmet Rea, brought down the house.

The feature of the evening was the singing of Messrs. Davidson and James.

The rendering of "Zenobia" by Mrs. DePue was of a high order indeed.

The opening greeting by Mrs. Johnson, the president, was a literary gem.

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